Request and Response:

In relation to looked after children

Q1: For the calendar year 2016

(a) How many unaccompanied asylum seeking children looked after by your local authority were:

- looked after and under 16 years of age;
- looked after and aged 16 or 17;
- care leavers aged 16-21?

(b) How many looked after unaccompanied asylum seeking children turned 18/left care but did not gain care leaver status?

A1: 

(a) 14
11
18

(b) 1

Q2: How many unaccompanied children did your local authority receive under the National Transfer Scheme in the calendar year 2016?

A2: 4

Q3: In the calendar year 2016

(a) Please provide figures in relation to the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children for whom you:

- funded legal advice;
- supported to access free legal advice;
- other (please specify).

(b) When determining if a child needs immigration advice do you consult with:

- in-house legal team;
- external legal counsel;
- case-by-case basis.

A3: (a) Funded legal advice: 1 care leaver
Q4: Do you have an internal policy, or written guidance outlining how you will facilitate access to immigration legal advice for looked after children in your care?

A4: No

In relation to children in private fostering arrangements and children receiving Section 17 and other forms of family support

Q5: In the calendar year 2016
   (a) How many children were in private foster arrangements within the local authority?
   (b) How many children in private foster arrangements in 2016 became looked after?
   (c) How many children in private foster care arrangements were subject to immigration control?
   (d) Of children in private foster care who were subject to immigration control, how many became looked after in 2016?

A5: (a) 10
    (b) 0
    (c) None
    (d) None

Q6: In the calendar year of 2016
   (a) How many children moved into your local authority to re-join family members under the Dublin III regulations?
   (b) How many of the families in (a) are currently receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989?
   (c) How many young people transferred through the Dublin regulations to your area have you subsequently taken into care after family breakdown?

A6: (a) 7
    (b) 7
    (c) 1

Q7: In the calendar year 2016, please provide figures in relation to the immigration legal advice secured for the below children:
   (a) Children in private foster care subject to immigration control.
   (b) Children, subject to immigration control, living with their family and receiving support through Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 or other forms of family support.
   (c) Immigration advice for children who have arrived in your local authority through a Dublin III transfer.
   (d) Immigration advice for children who have arrived in your local authority through a Dublin III transfer and are receiving support through Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
A7:  (a) None
     (b) None
     (c) None
     (d) None

Q8:  Do you have an internal policy or written guidance outlining how you will facilitate access to:
     (a) immigration legal advice for children living with their family in your local authority who are receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 or other forms of family support; and
     (b) immigration legal advice for children in private foster care in your local authority?

A8:  (a) No
     (b) No

In relation to trafficked children

Q9:  In the calendar year of 2016
     (a) How many referrals did your local authority make to the National Referral Mechanism to report suspected cases of trafficking in relation to children?
     (b) How many of these referrals were for children subject to immigration control?

A9:  (a) 1 care leaver
     (b) 0 care leavers

If you wish to receive further information in regards to this request or wish to submit a Freedom of Information Request please forward your request to info_management@sandwell.gov.uk or Information Management Unit, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE.